

SEEKONK COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

Minutes May 21, 2012

Present: Ron Blum, Neal Abelson, Willit Mason, Susan Waddington, Richard Wallace (see below)

Absent: John Alves, Jim Tusino,

Guest: Priscilla Dunn

In the absence of a quorum (Richard Wallace arrived at 7:45), Ron Blum, Chair, called the working session to order at 7:15.

The Chair introduced Priscilla Dunn who has filled out a Talent Bank application to become an BOS appointed Committee member. He described the CPA, how the CPC works, and the types of projects we have presented to the Town. Priscilla had some questions and indicated that she now has time to become involved in Town activities, although she has already been instrumental in starting the Seekonk community gardens.

We discussed the 2 CPC warrant articles. We will use the same formula as we have in the past for allotting currently received funds for our fiscal 2013 budget:

13,750.00 Administrative expenses
27,500.00 Open space preservation reserve
27,500.00 Historic preservation reserve
27,500.00 Affordable Community Housing reserve

The rest to go to our Undesignated Reserve.

At 7:45, Richard Wallace arrived and we went into formal session. We first unanimously voted to forward Priscilla Dunn's name to the Board of Selectmen for appointment to our Committee. Following that we continued our discussion of Warrant Articles 8 & 9. The Committee unanimously approved the amounts listed above to be added to existing CPA funds available to Seekonk. This is for Article 8.

For Article 9 the Committee voted unanimously to take \$75,000 from the Historical Preservation line and add to it \$25,000 from the Unbudgeted Reserve to make a total of \$100,000 for Phase 2 of the Renovation of Old Town Hall. Richard asked about documentation for Phase 1. Ron will ask the Finance Director how to get this. Richard also asked whether we should be signing off on all bills pertaining to our projects. Ron will ask about this also. A Fact Sheet will be prepared to hand out before the Town Meeting. I have gathered information from Dan Horton and Carol Bragg for the background, and Ron has asked Dan and members of the Wampanoag Tribe to provide current information. There is concern from some Committee members that the Tribe will have trouble obtaining further financing, but it was pointed

out that after the completion of Phase 2, the building will be tight and ready for leasing to another non-profit organization should the Tribal lease fall through. It will be emphasized to Dan and the Tribe that successful passage of this article will depend not only on the Committee's presentation, but on the support of those who wish this to happen.

The CPC will meet at 6:00 in the High School on June 11 before the meeting to be sure everything is in order.

Ron continues to work with the Town Administrator and Board/Department heads to fill the Committee. Assuming that Priscilla's application is approved, we still need someone from Parks & Recreation, a replacement for Ron from the Historic Commission, and someone from the Housing Authority who will attend meetings.

Ron indicated that John Hansen is actively working to set up a Real Estate Trust.

Willit said that 90 acres off School Street have been approved for an APR appraisal.

Our next full meeting, also the date of our annual Public Hearing, has been set for July 9 at 7:00.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan R. Waddington, Clerk